

# Understanding Recent Trends in Mortality (In the United States)

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# Looking at Mortality Trends

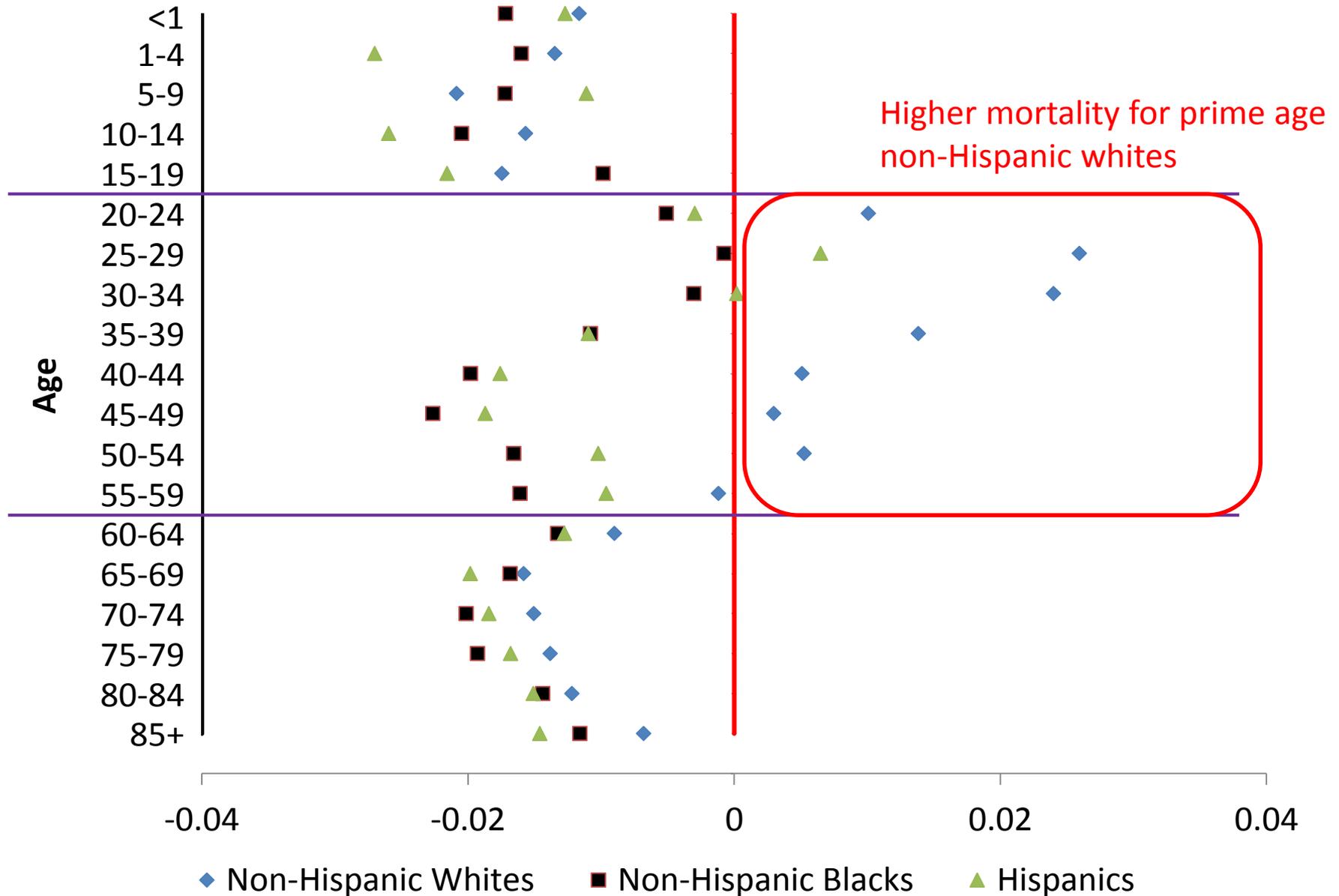
## Age Groups

- Young (<18)
- Middle Age (18-64)
- Elderly (65+)

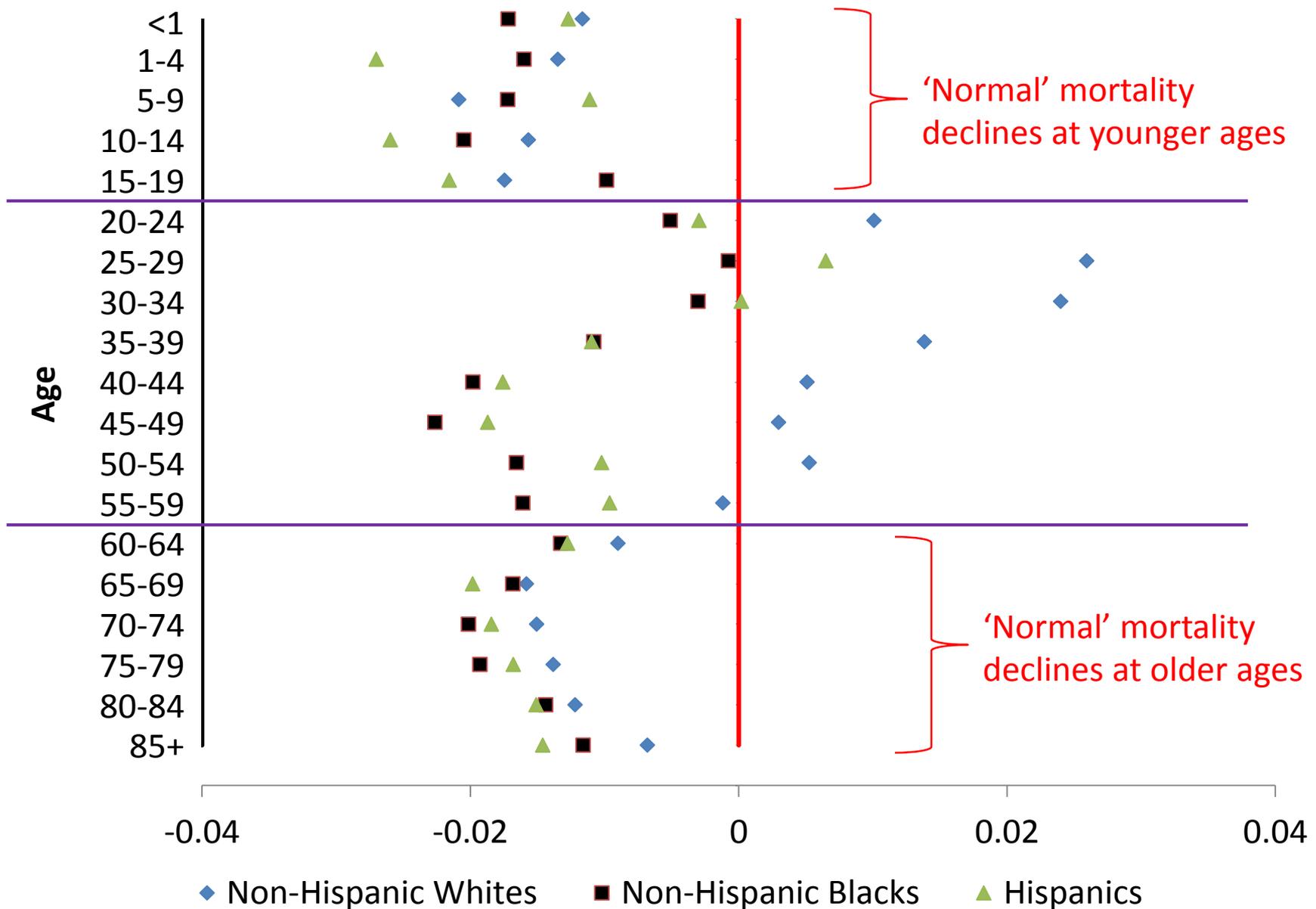
## Measures

- Annual change in  $MR_a$  from 1999-2016
- Show by race/ethnicity

# Annual Percent Change in Mortality by Ethnicity and Age, 1999-2016



# Annual Percent Change in Mortality by Ethnicity and Age, 1999-2016

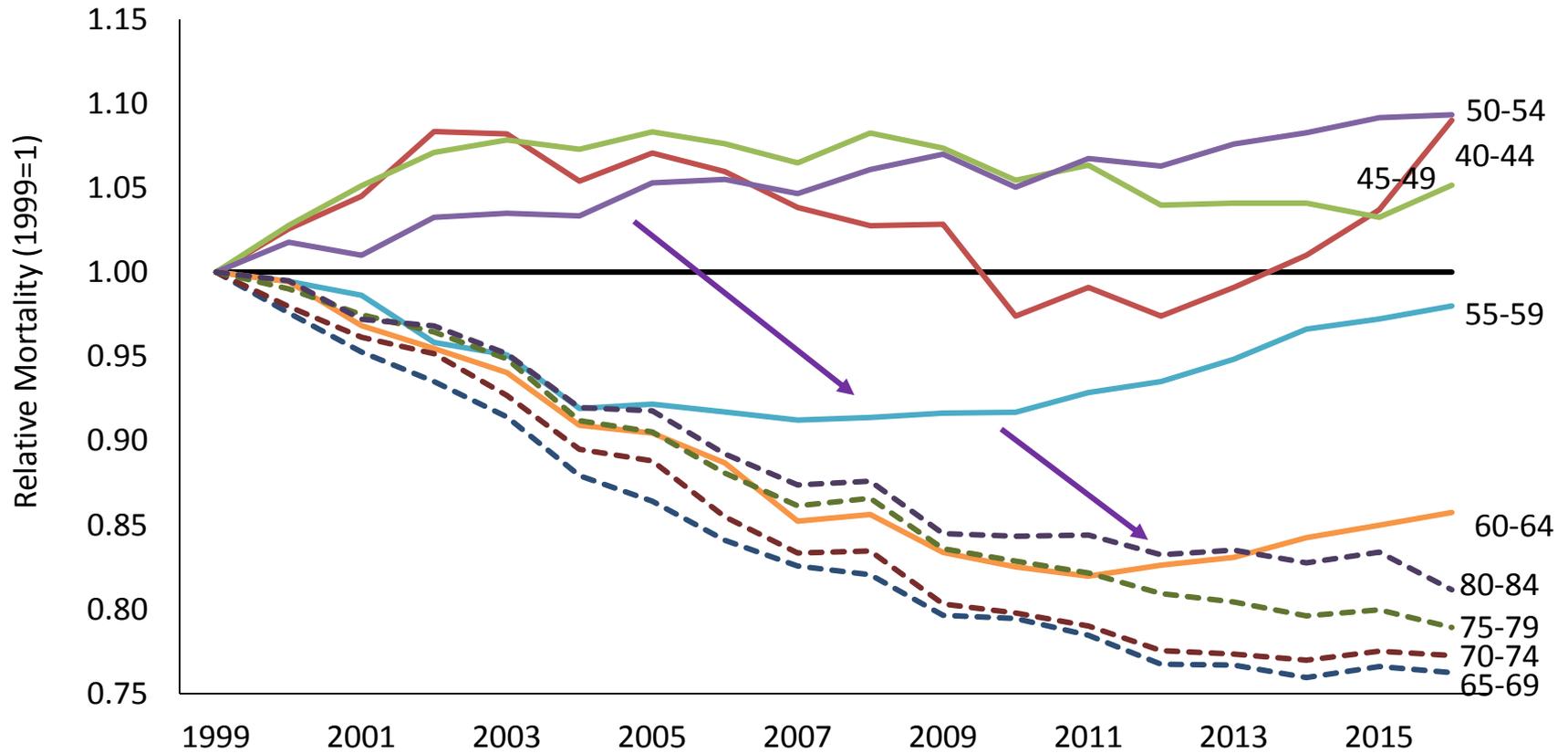


# Age, cohort, or period effects (APC)

- Impossible to tell apart
- Q: have older cohorts seen a recent increase in mortality?

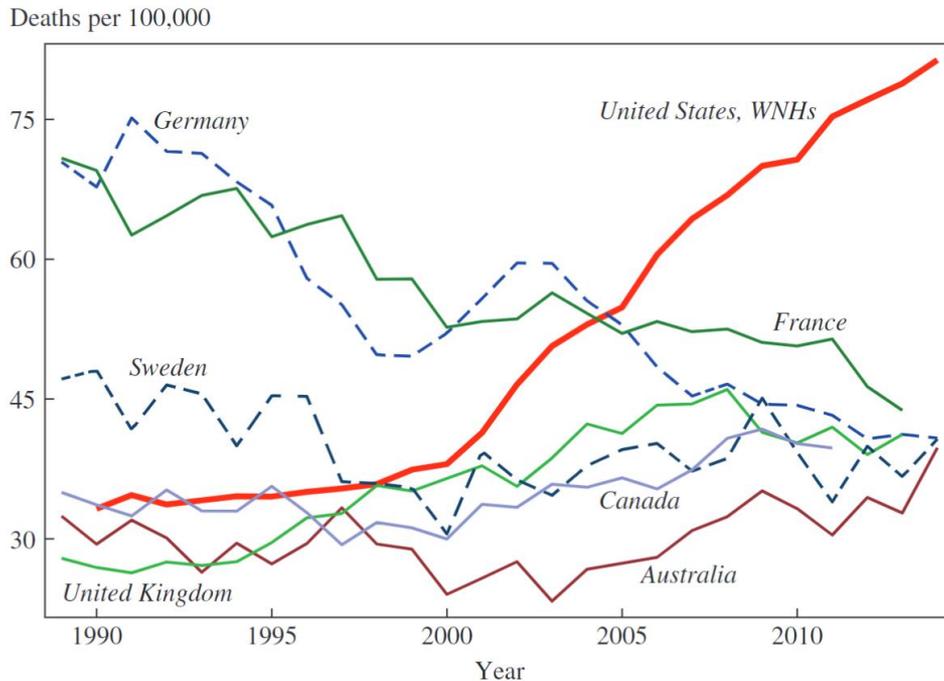
# Cohort or Year Effects?

Relative Mortality by Cohort, Non-Hispanic Whites, 1999-2016



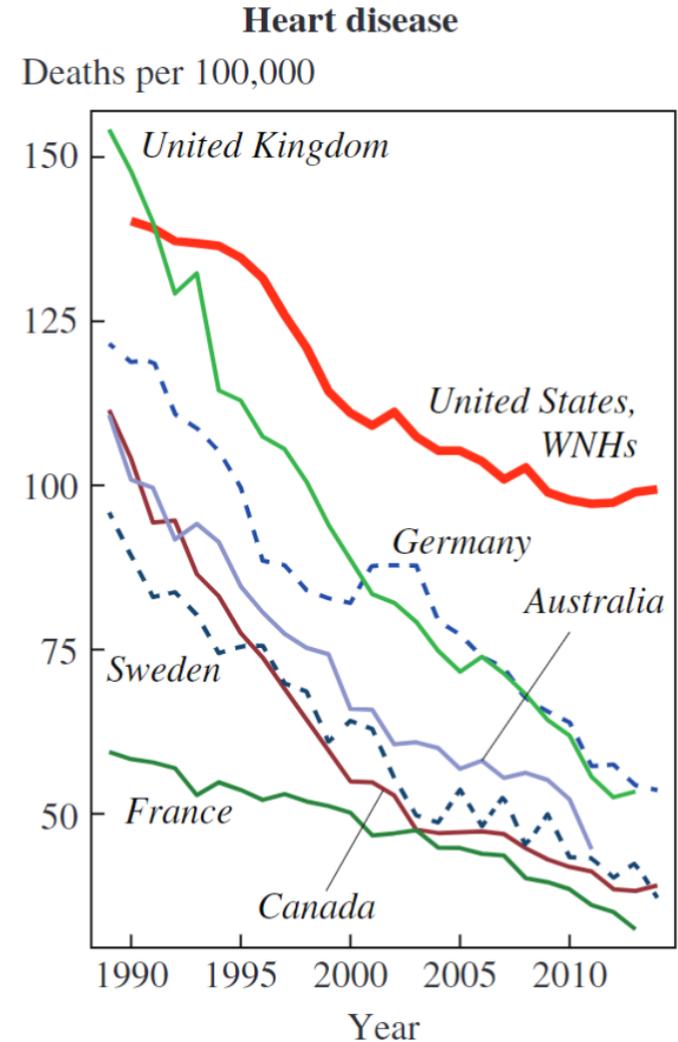
# The Rise in Mid-Life Mortality

**Figure 5.** Deaths of Despair by Country for Age 50–54, 1989–2014<sup>a</sup>



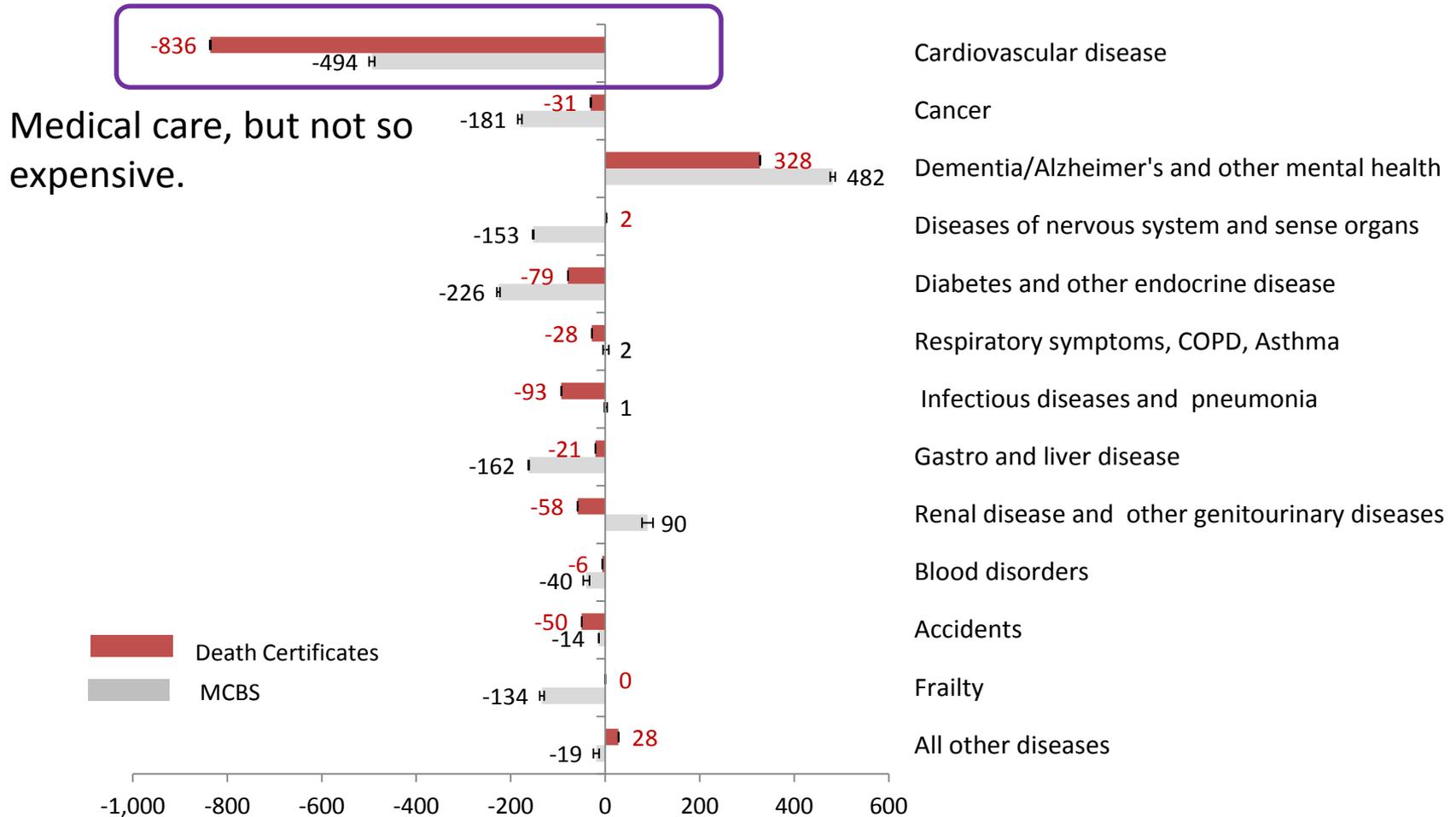
Sources: National Vital Statistics System; Human Mortality Database; WHO Mortality Database; authors' calculations.

a. Deaths of despair refer to deaths by drugs, alcohol, or suicide.

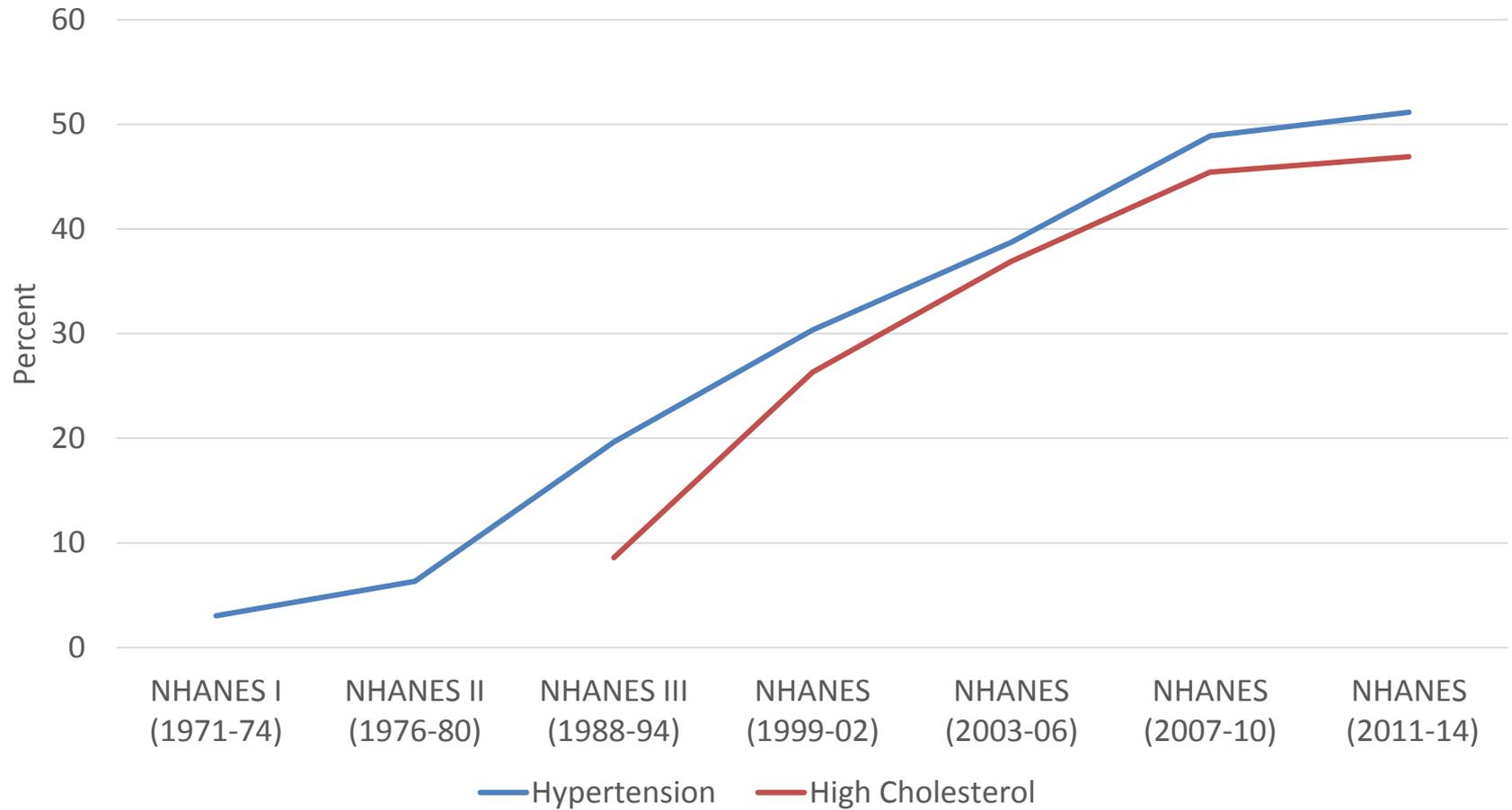


# What's going on in the elderly?

Figure 3: Change in death rates per 100,000 Medicare beneficiaries from 1999 to 2012



# Control of Cardiovascular Risk Factors



# A unified theory: The Battle Between Technology v. Economics

## Technology

- Medical technology:
  - Cardiovascular drugs
- Environmental
  - Less-polluting activities
  - Safety innovations (cars)
- Aided by (some) policy
  - Medicare, Medicaid, WIC/Head Start

## The Bad

- Economic dislocation
- Aided by (some) policy
  - Tax policy